

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

NEWSLETTER



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June - July 2006
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ELEVATED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 28 Waterford III Evaluated Exercise
- 29 Shelter Task Force Conference Call

JULY

- 3-4 Independence Day Holiday
- 7 Region 7 Exercise Initial Planning Conference
- 6 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 11 Region 4 Exercise Initial Planning Conference
- 13 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 20 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 27 Shelter Task Force Conference Call



Tony Robinson, FEMA, Governor Blanco and Col. Jeff Smith, acting director of GOHSEP address the media at one of the mock press conferences during the State Exercise.

Exercises held to prepare for 2006 Hurricane Season

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness participated in three exercises to prepare for the 2006 hurricane season. The exercises allowed the State to be even more prepared for any kind emergency or disaster situation.

Mobile Exercise Team (MET) Senior Officials' Exercise

On May 16, Governor Blanco participated in a half-day Senior Officials' Exercise provided through the Naval Postgraduate School's Mobile Exercise Team (MET). Invited participants included the governor's cabinet, the East Baton Rouge Mayor-President and the Mayor of New Orleans as well as members of each official's emergency response staff. George Foresman, DHS under secretary for preparedness, also attended.

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The goal of the exercise was to focus on strategies, actions and policy decisions guiding State and local officials immediately following a catastrophic hurricane.

FEMA Region VI Tabletop Exercise

The FEMA Region VI Tabletop Exercise, held in New Orleans on May 17-18, was designed to validate current plans and procedures and provide a means to further refine those documents. The two-day exercise also tested Federal and State Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) and validated mutual-aid agreements among the five FEMA Region VI states – Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and New Mexico. At Louisiana's request, the exercise also included representatives from Mississippi, due to the state's prominent role in coordination with Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina.

Exercise participants were divided into groups – State of Louisiana, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) support, Federal agencies and private sector – in order to take part in focused, facilitated discussions of pre-landfall, landfall and post-landfall actions and issues. Each of the 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) was represented in the breakout rooms.

State Functional/Full-Scale Exercise

On May 23 and 24, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness coordinated a functional/full-scale hurricane exercise to operationally validate communications plans and procedures as well as to identify areas requiring further refinement. The exercise tested EOPs as well as State, Parish and City communications plans.

The following locations participated in the exercise: the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Region 6 EOCs, Region 8 EOCs, Louisiana National Guard Tactical Assessment Center and Joint Operations Center, Joint Task Force Headquarters and the Department of Transportation and Development EOC.

A Simulation Cell was used to provide interaction between non-participating real-world organizations and exercise players.

The functional/full-scale exercise ran concurrently in response to Hurricane Alicia, a Category 3 hurricane, eventually making landfall in Plaquemines Parish. When it came ashore, the eye of the storm was approximately 25 miles in diameter with winds of 111-130 mph. The exercise focused on the preparations prior to landfall and the immediate response following the storm.

May 23 (Day 1) exercise play began 48 hours prior to tropical storm winds in New Orleans, with participants playing in real-time and managing the pre-landfall actions. The first day of play was a hybrid functional/full-scale exercise, with multiple Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) operating on a functional level, and full-scale play in New Orleans and Baton Rouge to exercise communications plans. Baton Rouge validated its Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) and New Orleans tested its current communications capabilities.

On May 24 (Day 2) participants jumped to four hours post-landfall, when winds had subsided to less than 50 miles per hour. All exercise play was functional.



GOHSEP and representatives from state agencies meet with Jesse St. Amant, director of Plaquemines Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, to discuss the Plaquemines Parish disaster plan.

GOHSEP Facilitates Emergency Planning with At-Risk Parishes

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness continues to facilitate meetings with parish officials and representatives from state agencies to discuss parish disaster plans and the support the parishes may need from the state and federal government during an emergency.

The meetings are part of an ongoing effort with the state's at-risk parishes to predict what resources and assets will be needed in a crisis and to ensure those parish needs are met. Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness directors continue to work with state agencies on issues including security, transportation, evacuation and sheltering.

St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes have already met with the State and supporting State agencies. Before July 15, the State will also meet with Washington, St. Charles, St. Mary, Vermillion and Cameron parishes.

Supporting state agencies participating in the planning sessions include the Louisiana National Guard, Department of Transportation and Development, Department of Health and Hospitals, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Department of Social Services, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana State Police and the Attorney General's Office.

GOHSEP hosts Grant Management Workshop

The Department of Homeland Security Grants and Training provided the State with two days of guidance in grants management and best practices June 13 – 14.

The following day, Parishes were invited to attend a workshop in the State EOC where DHS representatives reviewed grant timelines and techniques for program management. Over 50 parishes attended the training. GOHSEP also went through the State's Enhancement Plan and the nine initiatives for 2006.

Tentative Grants Timeline

June 28

Anticipated Actual Award Date

July 10 – 19

Regional Workshops

August 7

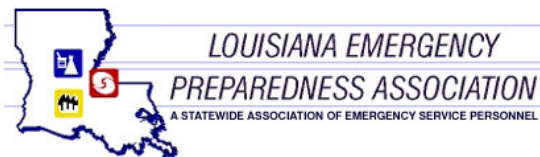
Grant Applications Due to GOHSEP

August 23

Deadline for SAA to approve all Award Packets

August 28

Award Letters send to the Regions



2006 LEPA Workshop

Members of the emergency management community from around the state gathered in Lake Charles June 5 - 8 for the annual Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association Workshop.

Participants had the opportunity to attend educational courses as well as network and socialize. The Workshop also featured a membership banquet and awards ceremony where the following Awards were presented:

2006-07 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Alexandra Jo Andrews
Michael Bitton
Ezra Boyd

DEDICATION AWARDS

Gene Barattini

MMRS Coordinator for the
Shreveport Metro Area & Disaster
Operations/Resource Coordinator
for Caddo-Bossier OHSEP

Reid Brau

Director of NW LA American Red
Cross

Melvin Smith

Governor's Office of Homeland
Security and Emergency
Preparedness

Michael Stevens

Governor's Office of Homeland
Security and Emergency
Preparedness

Liz Swaine

Executive Assistant to Mayor Keith
Hightower (Shreveport)

VALOR AWARDS

**Robert Adams, Chris Baxter,
Dwayne Cobb, Bernie David,
Robert Davidson, Claire
Donaldson, James Hamilton,
Barry Miley, Raymond Pratt, G.W.
Rutherford, Ronald Ward**
ExxonMobil

**Pfc Jamey Hebert, Pfc Jeff Lirette,
Det Blake Tabor, Ptn Michael
Toups**

Houma Police Department

Tfc Keith Redmond

Louisiana State Police Troop C

Cpt Joe Mouton, FF Wes

Thibodeaux

Houma Fire Department

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Knox Andres

HRSA Region 7 Emergency
Operations Coordinator

Rachel Bozeman

Executive Assistant for Caddo-
Bossier OHSEP

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

S.H. "Jackie" Jackson

Retired, Caddo Parish Sheriff's
Department; Don Majure
Hazardous Materials Consultant,
Inc.

Charles "Chuck" Mazziotti

Retired Director of Caddo-Bossier
OHSEP

Lt. Col. Mark Oxley

Deputy Superintendent, Chief of
Staff, Louisiana State Police

Gaston "Hoody" Veron

Retired, Assistant Director
Emergency Preparedness St. James
Parish

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

All First Responders

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita

Evacuation Guides Available Through the American Red Cross

In cooperation with the Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana State Police and the American Red Cross, GOSHEP has released an updated version of the Southeast evacuation guide and a new Southwest evacuation guide. The new guides contain travel trailer/mobile home safety guidelines as well as updated contact information. The Southwest guide features a new contraflow plan designed for that region.

The evacuation guides are available through the following local chapters of the American Red Cross:

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

Greater New Orleans Area: 1-800-229-8191 or 504-620-3105

St. Bernard Parish: 504-278-4228

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Lafayette Area: 337-234-7371

Lake Charles Area: 337-478-5122

For more information or to obtain guides in the Baton Rouge area, contact Mark Smith at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness by phone, 225-925-7427, or email, marksmith@ohsep.louisiana.gov.

Division Summaries

DISASTER RECOVERY SECTION

Section Chief Art Jones

Individual Assistance:

As of May 30, FEMA received 937,787 referrals for Individual Housing Assistance and approved 693,401 referrals, totaling \$3,115,500,271 for Hurricane Katrina. For Hurricane Rita, FEMA received 255,830 referrals for Individual Housing Assistance and approved 161,209 referrals, totaling \$3,166,843,942. The Small Business Administration has approved \$4,493,347,900 in assistance for both Katrina and Rita.

Public Assistance:

As of June 1, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness distributed \$963,279,465 in public assistance to 2,279 applicants for Hurricane Katrina and \$112,075,606 to 963 applicants for Hurricane Rita.

Quote for the Month

"There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there."

- Indira Gandhi

PREPAREDNESS SECTION

Section Chief Neal Fudge

The following courses are scheduled for the months of June and July:

ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	June 22	Lafayette
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/NRP Introduction	June 27	Vermilion
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	June 28	Vermilion
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	June 29	Vermilion
E273- Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program	10-14 July	Baton Rouge GOHSEP Classroom 1
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/NRP Introduction	July 11	Iberia
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	July 12	Iberia
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	July 13	Iberia
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/NRP Introduction	July 18	Acadia
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	July 19	Acadia
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	July 20	Acadia
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/NRP Introduction	July 25	Evangeline
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	July 26	Evangeline
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	July 27	Evangeline
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/NRP Introduction	Aug 1	St Martin
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Aug 2	St Martin
G393- Mitigation for Emergency Managers	August 3-4 <i>Cancelled</i>	Baton Rouge GOHSEP Classroom 1
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 3	St Martin
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/NRP Introduction	Aug 8	St Landry

OPERATIONS SECTION

Section Chief Lt. Col. Bill Doran

The 2006 hurricane season is here, and preparations to tackle the next event have been underway. Demands on personnel time while responding to hurricane Katrina led GOHSEP to create an office capable of responding to hurricanes and other disasters year-round. Through a continual focus on issues related to emergency operations, the agency will be able to respond more rapidly when needed.

The Operations Section is training staff to be deployed in the EOC and developing plans to continue the training. Operations evaluated the previous EOC structure and has adopted best practices. The section is also studying some of the difficult lessons learned last year and crafting improvements.

However, with all the improvements some things will not change. The EOC will continue to function as the agency point of contact and information clearinghouse during disasters and emergencies. When GOHSEP is needed, the agency will be ready. Phones, computers, file systems and communications systems are all in place. The overall objective is to provide for the immediate management of the emergency response and the very early transition to recovery operations. Working as a team, Operations has successfully built a stronger, hardened EOC.

Operations Section New additions:

Pat Arnould, Sr. Planner; Wendy Brogdon, Administrative Assistant; Will Santos, Sr. Operations Officer; Michelle Ralston, Planner; Julie Harris, Planner

Operations Section Internal Moves:

Chris Cerniauskas, Acting Plans Branch Chief; Jim Ballow, Operations Branch Chief; Gary Keyser, Operations Officer

E TEAM

At-Risk Parishes (coastal, southeast, southwest) will be issued E TEAM passwords by JUNE 15, 2006. All other parishes will have passwords by July 15, 2006.

Some of the new features and benefits of E Team are the following:

- Ease of deployment, use, and maintenance
- Rapid deployability – E Team is browser-based
- Quick and reliable scalability – thousands of users can quickly be added during a major crisis
- A common user interface for tasks, reports, and views
- Browser-based infrastructure that remains operational when other forms of communication are damaged

E Team Training

On June 1, 2006, the Southeast and Southwest Hurricane Task Force Parishes participated in Phase I on an E Team Training conference call.

Phase II will be executed June 12 – 16. This phase will incorporate the four branches of E team training to include EOC staff training and military augmentee training for those assigned to GOHSEP emergency operations. This is also an opportunity for state agencies to make recommendations of their needs to improve the E Team process.

Phase III will consist of all parishes receiving E Team training at identified regional sites which will be completed by July 15.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

Section Chief Matt Farlow

RapidCom

By Steven Burr

GOHSEP recently purchased three RapidCom modules capable of providing communications from a disaster area within minutes. The RapidCom communications trailers will enable our teams to establish satellite, radio, phone and Internet communications from virtually any location in Louisiana. In situations with short-term or prolonged infrastructure failure, the units allow command and control to be established and maintained until additional support can arrive.

The trailers are self-contained, transportable communications platforms designed to provide interoperable communications capabilities for rapid response efforts, as well as short term infrastructure replacement. The units come with two generators, propane tanks, one satellite antenna system and include mounting capability for four or more additional antennas, as may be required for the various VHF/UHF/800 MHz communications systems. The modules come with a trailer but can be mounted on a truck or dropped from a helicopter.

The module's two propane-fired generators and three fuel tanks will power the unit for up to 72 hours before requiring refueling, making the unit an effective means of running communications from affected areas throughout the duration of an emergency if need be.

Another key optional feature of RapidCom is the integration of the EMnet data stream. With the network, users will have immediate access to Emergency Alert System messages, National Weather Service alerts and local civil alerts.

All three units are expected to be available for the 2006 hurricane season.

For more information, please contact the GOHSEP IT Section.



The RapidCom units recently purchased by GOHSEP provide communications to a disaster area within minutes.